

PATENT
Application No. 09/592,387

Docket No. RSW920000026US1
Page 2

In the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A user assistance system for providing user assistance in connection with selectable steps associated with the operation of a computer program running on a computer system, each of said selectable steps capable of being active or inactive, and each implementing one or more substeps when selected, with one of the selectable steps being a currently-selected step, said user assistance system comprising:

a client work area displaying information pertaining to the currently-selected step; and

a navigator bar adjacent to said client work area, said navigator bar continuously displaying a visual representation of said selectable steps, said visual representation including a display of steps that are active and steps that are inactive, said displayed steps comprising the most likely steps to be traversed in connection with the currently selected step;

wherein said visual representation of said selectable steps displayed by said navigator bar further includes:

past steps already performed by said computer program; and
the currently-selected step.

2. (Previously presented) The user assistance system of claim 1, wherein said navigator bar is dividable into segments, with each segment corresponding to one of said steps of said selectable steps.

Claims 3-5 (Canceled)

PATENT
Application No. 09/592,387

Docket No. RSW920000026US1
Page 3

6. (Currently amended) The user assistance system of claim 5 1, wherein said segments include active segments and inactive segments, and wherein selection of an active segment changes the currently-selected step to the step corresponding to said selected active segment.

7. (Original) The user assistance system of claim 6, wherein said navigator bar displays said segments in a serial manner, and wherein said navigator bar can be scrolled to allow viewing of segments preceding or following said segment corresponding to said currently-selected step.

8. (Original) The user assistance system of claim 7, wherein the action of scrolling said navigator bar does not change the information being displayed in said client area.

9. (Original) The user assistance system of claim 8, wherein said information displayed in said client area comprises a selectable list of alternative choices for subsequent steps to be taken by said computer program.

10. (Previously presented) The user assistance system of claim 9, wherein selection of one of said alternative choices causes said display of future steps not yet performed by said computer program to change to a display of future steps associated with said selected alternative choice.

11. (Currently amended) A method for providing user assistance in connection with selectable steps associated with the operation of a computer program running on a computer

PATENT**Application No. 09/592,387****Docket No. RSW920000026US1****Page 4**

system, each of said selectable steps capable of being active or inactive, and each implementing one or more substeps when selected, with one of the selectable steps being a currently-selected step, said method comprising the steps of:

generating a client work area in which information pertaining to the currently-selected step is displayed; and

generating a navigator bar adjacent to said client work area, said navigator bar continuously displaying a visual representation of said selectable steps, said visual representation including a display of steps that are active and steps that are inactive, said displayed steps comprising the most likely steps to be traversed in connection with the currently selected step;

wherein said visual representation of said selectable steps displayed by said navigator bar further includes:

past steps already performed by said computer program; and
the currently-selected step.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of dividing said navigator bar into segments, with each segment corresponding to one of said steps of said selectable steps.

Claims 13-15 (Canceled)

PATENT
Application No. 09/592,387

Docket No. RSW920000026US1
Page 5

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~15~~ 11, wherein said segments include active segments and inactive segments, and wherein selection of an active segment changes the currently-selected step to the step corresponding to said selected active segment.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising the steps of:
displaying said segments on said navigator bar in a serial manner; and
providing means for scrolling said navigator bar, wherein said navigator bar can be scrolled to allow viewing of segments preceding or following said segment corresponding to said currently-selected step.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the action of scrolling said navigator bar does not change the information being displayed in said client area.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of displaying in said client area a selectable list of alternative choices for subsequent steps to be taken by said computer program.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of changing the display of future steps not yet performed by said computer program to a display of future steps associated with a selected alternative choice, when one of said alternative choices is selected.